P. Bodwell
Farmington July 4th 1829

Mr Amos A. Phelps
New Haven
Conn

Now I shall confide in you to treat this subject candidly as I have not ventured to mention it to any of my friends here, aside from your mother and Jonathan Bodwell who is some better acquainted with him than I am. I am expecting to go to Limsbury next week and should you be pleased shall wish to hear from you there. I shall probably be there two or three weeks, and possibly longer. As I am "a bird of passage" this summer I hardly know where I shall be next. I wish you to learn whether brother Anson is coming to Farm- and when, and let me know. I expected to have found him here three weeks ago— have waited his arrival till I am tired and must now go home again. I would write him but for want of leisure Tell E. Polly and Mother was much disappointed at her not going home with me— but when I told them she was coming back so soon they were more pacified. Tell her I am ready now to assist her to commence house-keeping in Farmington.— I heard of brother Anson in Bridgeport last Tuesday— know not but he is expecting to go there to live

There has been some calculations to celebrate this 4th of July in Farmington— but as the weather is unfavorable I think some of their plans will be defeated. Mr Porter however is expected to preach a sermon this afternoon upon "the negro cause" as you term it. We are expecting to attend. How does it go on with you now? Are you as anxious to be among them as ever? Or are you contemplating a mission nearer home? Truly their cause is a good one. "Oh! when shall Afric's sable sons
Enjoy the heavenly light?"

I have almost filled my sheet but have not written all I wish— enough perhaps you may say without it is better but I trust you do not expect much from me. I shall wish to hear from you soon and if you can, do just give a word of admonition to that wild Elira-
beth

Your truly Parentha

Those favorable appearances I mentioned last winter have in a measure subsided. The few who we trust submitted their hearts to Christ so far as I am acquainted give satisfactory evidence that it was a genuine work.- My thoughts perfectly coincide with yours respecting "the sinner's waiting God's time" But still how many are living on this plea! Yea how many ruin their own souls by hoping that bye and bye Gods time will come when they shall as it were be dragged to Heaven. Alas! for such vain excusers! Many I fear will find to their eternal shame and sorrow that as you express it "God never helps those who do not help themselves".

Amos, in my billet enclosed in the trunk I just hinted upon a subject which I will now be more explicit. It is a subject upon which I very much need your counsel and prayers. And I trust I may have confidence to rely upon candid instruction. I feel however a delicacy upon this subject and were you here I should not dare to venture to introduce the conversation. But you will excuse me if I should ask that instruction by writing, which I could not mention personally.— And to come to the point what would you advise me, should I ask - whether it is best for one like me (if I should have the chance) to marry to a man? - say a good honest Farmer- one who for a number of years has given satisfactory evidence of piety (but notwithstanding all this has not much property altho arrived at thirty years of age. Now I want your advice upon this, and that advice you would give a sister too. For altho my age is somewhat advanced I do not feel prepared to come to any positive decision upon the subject.— Thus far in life think I can say I never felt ready to unite in marriage to any one, (aside from him who now sleeps low in dust.) If I can in any way be made useful to my fellow creatures I am entirely willing to spend my days in a single state.

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Cousin Amos

I seat myself this morning to write you again, I enclosed a few lines in your trunk about two weeks ago, but know not whether you received it yet. I am however of the opinion that it reached you and that you have concluded that that which costs little or nothing is worth nothing. As I there hinted that I was owing you a good long letter I will endeavour now to pay what I owe— you always say "better late than never" And as this comes at a late hour I hope it may not come altogether unacceptable.

Your letter is now before me which I have many times perused with attention. You there say you "rejoice to hear what God is doing for Zion" And truly nothing should excite our joy so much as to see converts multiplying and sinners crowding their way to the kingdom of glory.— There has indeed been some precious drops of grace here-abouts, but as you observe it is to be feared that "Christians leave more than half the work for God to do." Especially in Simsbury I do think this to be the case There seems to be an "Achan in the camp" somewhere Where or what I know not.— At times we are ready to conclude from what our eyes witness and hearts feel that God is about to visit us with a plentiful shower— anon our prospects are all darkened and nothing but perpetual gloom seems to cover our horizon. Then our souls are bowed down and we go mourning all the day, and in the bitterness of grief cry out, "Why are his chariot wheels so long in coming? why tarry they so long?"